

Conversation Contents

Keeping you informed about the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment

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From: "U.S. Environmental Protection Agency"
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To: rseal@usgs.gov
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Greetings -

During 2011 and 2012, EPA conducted a scientific assessment of the Bristol Bay watershed to understand how large-scale mining could potentially affect water quality and salmon ecosystems in the Kvichak and Nushagak river systems - home to one of the largest salmon populations in the world and an area with significant mineral resources.

After EPA's draft Bristol Bay Assessment was released in May 2012, we received over 230,000 public comments and conducted a rigorous external peer review. EPA is using the comments and suggestions from the public and the 12 peer reviewers to revise the assessment.

EPA is making arrangements for the 12 original Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment peer reviewers to evaluate the revisions the agency has made to the draft Bristol Bay Assessment. EPA's goal is to determine if these revisions reflect the peer reviewers' feedback, which EPA received in fall of 2012. This peer review follow-up will be conducted in spring 2013.

As part of EPA's continued commitment to public involvement since launching the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment, the agency intends to hold a public comment period on the revised assessment concurrent with the peer review evaluation. EPA's primary objective is to make sure the agency is using the best available science. EPA intends to finalize the assessment in 2013 after carefully considering the scientific peer review and public comment.

Thank you for your interest in the EPA Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment.

Sincerely,

Judy Smith

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